

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended) A clip reel for use in packaging equipment, the reel comprising:

~~Reel (10) comprised of~~

a spool;

~~a metal strip having a plurality of (12) with loops (14), in particular a clip reel for use in packaging equipment, the metal strip having several coils wound about the spool and a free end (16) of the metal strip extending into the a direction of the unwinding of the metal strip (12) from the spool, and~~

~~a retaining device which (22). The retaining device (20) forms a releasable connection between two points on the metal strip (12), one a first point close to the free end of the metal strip (16) and another a second point in one of a metal strip segment (12), which is part of a different coil or — if available — and a point on the spool, (18). The so~~

~~wherein the formed connection has a shape-mated design which secures the reel against unwinding at the free end and is characterized by its shape-mated design.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended) A reel according to The reel of claim 1, characterized by the design of wherein the retaining device as a separate part with comprises two spatially separated functional ends.

Claim 3 (currently amended) A reel according to The reel of claim 2, characterized by the design of wherein the first end of the retaining device with its first end having comprises a lug ring (20), which catches a first loop of a first coil of the metal strip and snugly accommodates the entire width of the metal strip (12), and further characterized by wherein the second end of the retaining device comprises a hook (26) at the second end of the retaining device, which latches into a second loop (14) on another of a second coil of the metal strip coil (12).

Claim 4 (currently amended) ~~A reel according to~~ The reel of claim 3, characterized by the design of wherein the hook (26) ~~as is~~ is a carabiner hook. .

Claim 5 (currently amended) ~~A reel according to one of the above claims, characterized by the fact that~~ The reel of claim 1, wherein the retaining device is made entirely of synthetic material.

Claim 6 (currently amended) ~~A reel according to claim 5 characterized by the fact that~~ The reel of claim 5, wherein the retaining device (22) is cast as a one-piece part.

Claim 7 (currently amended) A retaining device for a clip reel for packaging equipment wherein (10) the reel having a metal strip with loops, the strip wound in at least three coils about a spool, comprised of a metal strip (12) with loops (14), in particular a clip reel for packaging equipment, ~~having at least three coils and a free end extending into the direction of unwinding, and the retaining device being characterized by comprising:~~

- a flat shaft (24); with
- a lug ring (20) at one end; and
- a hook (26) at the opposite end.

Claim 8 (new) A method for preventing a metal strip wound about a spool from unwinding, the method comprising the steps of:

- providing a spool having a metal strip wound about the spool in a plurality of coils, the metal strip having a plurality of loops and a free end;

- providing a retaining device having a shaft, a lug ring at a first end, and a hook at a second end;

- threading the free end of the metal strip through the lug ring of the retaining device until the lug ring is positioned about a first loop of a first coil of the metal strip near the free end;

- latching the hook end of the retaining device into a second loop of a second coil of the metal strip wherein the retaining device prevents the metal strip from unwinding from the spool.